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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/115,229	07/14/1998	ANDRE SCHEELEN	SLVAY-3741.0	1150
26694	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP			DYE, RENA	
P.O. BOX 34385			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998			PAPER NUMBER	

3627

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

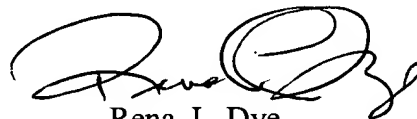
**Response to Reply Brief**

The reply brief filed on May 3, 2004 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal. Appellant's request for an oral hearing filed on May 3, 2004 has been acknowledged.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rena L. Dye whose telephone number is 703-308-4331. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 703-308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rena L. Dye  
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R. Dye  
5/17/04